



Marked-Up Version of Amendments Submitted With
Amendment; Response To Office Action Mailed January 31, 2003

531. (amended) A method of treating a hydrocarbon containing formation in situ, comprising:
providing heat from one or more heaters to at least a portion of the formation;
allowing the heat to transfer from the one or more heaters to a part of the formation;
controlling a pressure and a temperature ~~within~~ at least a majority of the part of the
formation, wherein the pressure is controlled as a function of temperature, or the temperature is
controlled as a function of pressure, and wherein the controlled pressure is at least about 2.0
bars absolute; and
producing a mixture from the formation.

532. (amended) The method of claim 531, wherein the one or more heaters comprise at least
two heaters, and wherein superposition of heat from at least the two heaters pyrolyzes at least
some hydrocarbons ~~within~~ the part of the formation.

533. (amended) The method of claim 531, further comprising controlling formation
conditions, wherein controlling formation conditions comprises maintaining a temperature
~~within~~ the part of the formation ~~within~~ a pyrolysis temperature range from about 270 °C to
about 400 °C.

534. (amended) The method of claim 531, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters
comprises an electrical heater.

535. (amended) The method of claim 531, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters
comprises a surface burner.

536. (amended) The method of claim 531, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters
comprises a flameless distributed combustor.

537. (amended) The method of claim 531, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters comprises a natural distributed combustor.

539. (amended) The method of claim 531, wherein providing heat from the one or more heaters to at least the portion of the formation comprises:

heating a selected volume (V) of the hydrocarbon containing formation from the one or more heaters, wherein the formation has an average heat capacity (C_v), and wherein the heating pyrolyzes at least some hydrocarbons ~~within~~in the selected volume of the formation; and

wherein heating energy/day (P_{wr}) provided to the selected volume is equal to or less than $h * V * C_v * \rho_B$, wherein ρ_B is formation bulk density, and wherein an average heating rate (h) of the selected volume is about 10 °C/day.

541. (amended) The method of claim 531, wherein ~~providing heat~~allowing heat to transfer from the one or more heaters ~~comprises heating the part of the formation such that~~increases a thermal conductivity of at least a portion of the part of the formation ~~is to~~greater than about 0.5 W/(m °C).

554. (amended) The method of claim 531, wherein the produced mixture comprises a non-condensable component, wherein the non-condensable component comprises molecular hydrogen, wherein the molecular hydrogen is greater than about 10 % by volume of the non-condensable component at 25 °C and one atmosphere absolute pressure, and wherein the molecular hydrogen is less than about 80 % by volume of the non-condensable component at 25 °C and one atmosphere absolute pressure.

558. (amended) The method of claim 531, further comprising controlling formation conditions to produce a mixture of condensable hydrocarbons and H₂, wherein a partial pressure of H₂ ~~within~~in the mixture is greater than about 0.5 bar.

560. (amended) The method of claim 531, further comprising altering a pressure ~~within~~in the formation to inhibit production of hydrocarbons from the formation having carbon numbers greater than about 25.

561. (amended) The method of claim 531, further comprising ~~controlling formation wherein controlling formation conditions comprises~~ recirculating a portion of hydrogen from the mixture into the formation.

562. (amended) The method of claim 531, further comprising:
providing hydrogen (H₂) to the part of the formation to hydrogenate hydrocarbons ~~within~~ the part of the formation; and
heating a portion of the part of the formation with heat from hydrogenation.

564. (amended) The method of claim 531, wherein allowing the heat to transfer ~~comprises increasing~~ increases a permeability of a majority of the part of the formation to greater than about 100 millidarcy.

565. (amended) The method of claim 531, wherein allowing the heat to transfer ~~comprises substantially uniformly increasing~~ increases a permeability of a majority of the part of the formation such that a permeability of the majority of the part of the formation is substantially uniform.

568. (amended) The method of claim 531, further comprising providing heat from ~~three or more~~ heaters to at least a portion of the formation, wherein ~~three or more of~~ the heaters are located in the formation in a unit of heaters, and wherein the unit of heaters comprises a triangular pattern.

569. (amended) The method of claim 531, further comprising providing heat from ~~three or more~~ heaters to at least a portion of the formation, wherein ~~three or more of~~ the heaters are located in the formation in a unit of heaters, wherein the unit of heaters comprises a triangular pattern, and wherein a plurality of the units are repeated over an area of the formation to form a repetitive pattern of units.

570. (amended) A method of treating a hydrocarbon containing formation in situ, comprising:

providing heat from one or more heaters to at least a portion of the formation;
allowing the heat to transfer from the one or more heaters to a part of the formation to raise an average temperature ~~within~~ the part of the formation to, or above, a temperature that will pyrolyze hydrocarbons ~~within~~ the part of the formation;
producing a mixture from the formation; and
controlling API gravity of the produced mixture to be greater than about 25 degrees API by controlling average pressure and average temperature in the part of the formation such that the average pressure in the part of the formation is greater than the pressure (p) set forth in the following equation for an assessed average temperature (T) in the part of the formation:

$$p = e^{[-44000/T + 67]}$$

where p is measured in psia and T is measured in Kelvin.

573. (amended) The method of claim 570, wherein the one or more heaters comprise at least two heaters, and wherein superposition of heat from at least the two heaters pyrolyzes at least some hydrocarbons ~~within~~ the part of the formation.

574. (amended) The method of claim 570, wherein controlling the average temperature comprises maintaining a temperature in the part of the formation ~~within~~ a pyrolysis temperature range from about 270 °C to about 400 °C.

575. (amended) The method of claim 570, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters comprises an electrical heater.

576. (amended) The method of claim 570, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters comprises a surface burner.

577. (amended) The method of claim 570, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters comprises a flameless distributed combustor.

578. (amended) The method of claim 570, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters comprises a natural distributed combustor.

579. (amended) The method of claim 570, further comprising controlling a temperature within at least a majority of the part of the formation, wherein the pressure is controlled as a function of temperature, or the temperature is controlled as a function of pressure.

581. (amended) The method of claim 570, wherein providing heat from the one or more heaters to at least the portion of the formation comprises:

heating a selected volume (V) of the hydrocarbon containing formation from the one or more heaters, wherein the formation has an average heat capacity (C_v), and wherein the heating pyrolyzes at least some hydrocarbons within the selected volume of the formation; and

wherein heating energy/day (Pwr) provided to the selected volume is equal to or less than $h * V * C_v * \rho_B$, wherein ρ_B is formation bulk density, and wherein an average heating rate (h) of the selected volume is about 10 °C/day.

583. (amended) The method of claim 570, wherein providing heat from the one or more heaters ~~comprises heating the part of the formation such that~~ increases a thermal conductivity of at least a portion of the part of the formation ~~is to~~ greater than about 0.5 W/(m °C).

595. (amended) The method of claim 570, wherein the produced mixture comprises a non-condensable component, wherein the non-condensable component comprises molecular hydrogen, wherein the molecular hydrogen is greater than about 10 % by volume of the non-condensable component at 25 °C and one atmosphere absolute pressure, and wherein the molecular hydrogen is less than about 80 % by volume of the non-condensable component at 25 °C and one atmosphere absolute pressure.

598. (amended) The method of claim 570, further comprising controlling formation conditions to produce a mixture of condensable hydrocarbons and H₂, wherein a partial pressure of H₂ within the mixture is greater than about 0.5 bar.

600. (amended) The method of claim 570, further comprising altering a pressure ~~within~~ the formation to inhibit production of hydrocarbons from the formation having carbon numbers greater than about 25.

601. (amended) The method of claim 570, further comprising ~~controlling formation conditions, wherein controlling formation conditions comprises~~ recirculating a portion of hydrogen from the mixture into the formation.

602. (amended) The method of claim 570, further comprising:
providing hydrogen (H₂) to the part of the formation to hydrogenate hydrocarbons ~~within~~ the part of the formation; and
heating a portion of the part of the formation with heat from hydrogenation.

604. (amended) The method of claim 570, wherein allowing the heat to transfer ~~comprises increasing~~ increases a permeability of a majority of the part of the formation to greater than about 100 millidarcy.

605. (amended) The method of claim 570, wherein allowing the heat to transfer ~~comprises substantially uniformly increasing~~ increases a permeability of a majority of the part of the formation such that the permeability of the majority of the part of the formation is substantially uniform.

608. (amended) The method of claim 570, further comprising providing heat from ~~three or more~~ heaters to at least a portion of the formation, wherein ~~three or more of~~ the heaters are located in the formation in a unit of heaters, and wherein the unit of heaters comprises a triangular pattern.

609. (amended) The method of claim 570, further comprising providing heat from ~~three or more~~ heaters to at least a portion of the formation, wherein ~~three or more of~~ the heaters are located in the formation in a unit of heaters, wherein the unit of heaters comprises a triangular

pattern, and wherein a plurality of the units are repeated over an area of the formation to form a repetitive pattern of units.

610. (amended) A method of treating a hydrocarbon containing formation in situ, comprising:
providing heat to at least a portion of a hydrocarbon containing formation such that a temperature (T) in a substantial part of the heated portion exceeds 270 °C and hydrocarbons are pyrolyzed ~~within~~ the heated portion of the formation;

controlling a pressure (p) ~~within~~ at least a substantial part of the heated portion of the formation;

wherein $p_{bar} > e^{[(-A/T) + B - 2.6744]}$;

wherein p is the pressure in bar absolute and T is the temperature in degrees K, and A and B are parameters that are larger than 10 and are selected in relation to the characteristics and composition of the hydrocarbon containing formation and on the required olefin content and carbon number of the pyrolyzed hydrocarbon fluids; and

producing pyrolyzed hydrocarbon fluids from the heated portion of the formation.

623. (amended) A method of treating a hydrocarbon containing formation in situ, comprising:
providing heat from one or more heaters to at least a portion of the formation;

allowing the heat to transfer from the one or more heaters to a part of the formation to raise an average temperature ~~within~~ the part of the formation to, or above, a temperature that will pyrolyze hydrocarbons ~~within~~ the part of the formation;

producing a mixture from the formation; and

controlling a weight percentage of olefins of the produced mixture to be less than about 20 % by weight by controlling average pressure and average temperature in the part of the formation such that the average pressure in the part of the formation is greater than the pressure (p) set forth in the following equation for an assessed average temperature (T) in the part of the formation:

$$p = e^{[-57000/T + 83]}$$

where p is measured in psia and T is measured in Kelvin.

665. (amended) A method of treating a hydrocarbon containing formation in situ, comprising:

providing heat from one or more heaters to at least a portion of the formation;
allowing the heat to transfer from the one or more heaters to a part of the formation to raise an average temperature ~~within~~ the part of the formation to, or above, a temperature that will pyrolyze hydrocarbons ~~within~~ the part of the formation;
producing a mixture from the formation; and
controlling hydrocarbons having carbon numbers greater than 25 of the produced mixture to be less than about 25 % by weight by controlling average pressure and average temperature in the part of the formation such that the average pressure in the part of the formation is greater than the pressure (p) set forth in the following equation for an assessed average temperature (T) in the part of the formation:

$$p = e^{[-14000/T + 25]}$$

where p is measured in psia and T is measured in Kelvin.

667. (amended) The method of claim 665, wherein the hydrocarbons having carbon numbers greater than 25 of the produced mixture ~~is~~ are controlled to be less than about 15 % by weight, and wherein the equation is:

$$p = e^{[-18000/T + 32]}.$$

668. (amended) The method of claim 665, wherein the one or more heaters comprise at least two heaters, and wherein superposition of heat from at least the two heaters pyrolyzes at least some hydrocarbons ~~within~~ the part of the formation.

669. (amended) The method of claim 665, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters comprises an electrical heater.

670. (amended) The method of claim 665, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters comprises a surface burner.

671. (amended) The method of claim 665, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters comprises a flameless distributed combustor.

672. (amended) The method of claim 665, wherein at least one of the ~~one or more~~ heaters comprises a natural distributed combustor.

673. (amended) The method of claim 665, further comprising controlling a temperature ~~within~~ at least a majority of the part of the formation, wherein the pressure is controlled as a function of temperature, or the temperature is controlled as a function of pressure.

674. (amended) The method of claim 673, wherein controlling the temperature comprises maintaining a temperature ~~within~~ the part of the formation ~~within~~ a pyrolysis temperature range from about 270 °C to about 400 °C.

676. (amended) The method of claim 665, wherein providing heat from the one or more heaters to at least the portion of the formation comprises:

heating a selected volume (V) of the hydrocarbon containing formation from the one or more heaters, wherein the formation has an average heat capacity (C_v), and wherein the heating pyrolyzes at least some hydrocarbons ~~within~~ the selected volume of the formation; and

wherein heating energy/day (Pwr) provided to the selected volume is equal to or less than $h * V * C_v * \rho_B$, wherein ρ_B is formation bulk density, and wherein an average heating rate (h) of the selected volume is about 10 °C/day.

678. (amended) The method of claim 665, wherein providing heat from the one or more heaters ~~comprises heating the part of the formation such that~~ increases a thermal conductivity of at least a portion of the part of the formation ~~is to~~ greater than about 0.5 W/(m °C).

690. (amended) The method of claim 665, wherein the produced mixture comprises a non-condensable component, wherein the non-condensable component comprises molecular hydrogen, wherein the molecular hydrogen is greater than about 10 % by volume of the non-condensable component at 25 °C and one atmosphere absolute pressure, and wherein the molecular hydrogen is less than about 80 % by volume of the non-condensable component at 25 °C and one atmosphere absolute pressure.

693. (amended) The method of claim 665, further comprising controlling formation conditions to produce a mixture of condensable hydrocarbons and H₂, wherein a partial pressure of H₂ ~~within~~in the mixture is greater than about 0.5 bar.

695. (amended) The method of claim 665, further comprising altering a pressure ~~within~~in the formation to inhibit production of hydrocarbons from the formation having carbon numbers greater than about 25.

696. (amended) The method of claim 665, further comprising:
providing hydrogen (H₂) to the part of the formation to hydrogenate hydrocarbons ~~within~~in the part of the formation; and
heating a portion of the part of the formation with heat from hydrogenation.

698. (amended) The method of claim 665, wherein allowing the heat to transfer ~~comprises~~increasingincreases a permeability of a majority of the part of the formation to greater than about 100 millidarcy.

699. (amended) The method of claim 665, wherein allowing the heat to transfer ~~comprises~~substantially uniformly increasingincreases a permeability of a majority of the part of the formation such that the permeability of the majority of the part of the formation is substantially uniform.

702. (amended) The method of claim 665, further comprising providing heat from ~~three or more~~ heaters to at least a portion of the formation, wherein ~~three or more of~~ the heaters are located in the formation in a unit of heaters, and wherein the unit of heaters comprises a triangular pattern.

703. (amended) The method of claim 665, further comprising providing heat from ~~three or more~~ heaters to at least a portion of the formation, wherein ~~three or more of~~ the heaters are located in the formation in a unit of heaters, wherein the unit of heaters comprises a triangular

pattern, and wherein a plurality of the units are repeated over an area of the formation to form a repetitive pattern of units.

704. (amended) A method of treating a hydrocarbon containing formation in situ, comprising:
providing heat from one or more heaters to at least a portion of the formation;
allowing the heat to transfer from the one or more heaters to a part of the formation to raise an average temperature ~~within~~in the part of the formation to, or above, a temperature that will pyrolyze hydrocarbons ~~within~~in the part of the formation;
producing a mixture from the formation; and
controlling an atomic hydrogen to carbon ratio of the produced mixture to be greater than about 1.7 by controlling average pressure and average temperature in the part of the formation such that the average pressure in the part of the formation is greater than the pressure (p) set forth in the following equation for an assessed average temperature (T) in the part of the formation:

$$p = e^{[-38000/T + 61]}$$

where p is measured in psia and T is measured in Kelvin.